

In the claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim [[1]] 3, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
6. (Currently Amended) An isolated expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim [[1]] 3.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) The isolated expression vector of claim [[7]] 6, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
9. (Previously Presented) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 6.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) The host cell of claim [[10]] 2, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

RESPONSE

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 7 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice and without disclaimer. Claims 5, 6, 8 and 11 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11 are therefore presently pending in the case.

II. Support for the Amendments

The specification has been amended to include a new title that is more descriptive of the invention to which the claims are directed. Support for the new title can be found in the original title, and throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to reference claim 3, since claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice and without disclaimer. Support for these claims can be found throughout the specification as originally filed.

Claim 8 has been amended to reference claim 6, since claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice and without disclaimer. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification as originally filed.

Claim 11 has been amended to reference claim 9, since claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice and without disclaimer. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification as originally filed.

It will be understood that no new matter is included within the new title, or the amended claim.

III. Information Disclosure Statement

The Action objects to the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 11, 2002, which contained an International Search Report and the references provided by the European Patent Office. First, the Examiner notes that "two database citations have been crossed off the PTO-1449 because there were no copies present in the instant application" (the Action at page 2). Applicants note for the record that no copies of these database citations were provided by the European Patent Office, which is why no copies were provided to the United States Patent and